OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conl
1 - Mr. Rosen

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: June 23, 1966

1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Conrad
Callahan
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

On June 22, 1966, Mr. S. Douglass Cater, Jr., Special Assistant to the President, contacted Mr. Donahoe in Mr. DeLoach's office and indicated that the publisher of Reporter magazine, described by Cater as a friend of the President, is planning to write a responsible article on the assassination of President Kennedy to rebut some of the more sensational books recently published which have taken issue with the Warren Commission report. Mr. Cater specifically made reference to a small portable radio which was found in Oswald's effects by the Dallas Police Department and which is now in custody of the FBI Laboratory until disposition is made of all evidence in this case.

Mr. Cater indicated that the article for Reporter magazine is being prepared by one Al Newman who has developed a theory that Oswald may have been influenced by listening to inflammatory remarks by Fidel Castro on the radio found in Oswald's possession. Cater requested that he be furnished all data in our possession regarding the radio, its capability to receive Cuban broadcasts and any data we may have received as to its use in this regard.

A small, brown, plastic, Russian-made radio commonly known as the "Tourist" was found in Oswald's effects after his arrest. This radio was designed for use on standard broadcast frequencies and is similar in this respect to American-made radios commonly found in the American home. The radio could be used with dry cell batteries or with a small power supply unit which would enable the radio to be operated on ordinary house current. Someone living in the Southeastern section of the United States could listen to Cuban broadcasts with this radio, particularly at night when reception would be better, if radio operating properly. REC 50 54.88

The radio was not in operating condition when it was received by the FBI Laboratory from the Dallas Police Department. The battery terminals were badly rusted and one terminal was missing. No effort was made by the FBI Laboratory to repair the radio since to have done so would have changed the physical

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Enclosures

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condition of the radio from that in which it was received. Obviously, from an evidentiary standpoint, it was essential no steps be taken to alter the radio.

The Warren Commission was furnished data by this Bureau concerning the radio since it was listed in an inventory of all evidence obtained. The Commission did not assign an exhibit number to the radio and no mention of it was made by the Commission in its "Report on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." During our investigation of Oswald, we developed no information indicating Oswald used this radio to listen to Cuban radio broadcasts.

Copies of photographs of the radio (FBI identification number A-2) and the power supply unit (FBI identification number A-6) are attached as enclosures to this memorandum.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Cater furnishing him the information concerning the radio as set forth herein in accordance with his request. We are suggesting that Mr. Cater not release the data furnished him concerning the radio to any publication without clearing such release with the Attorney General. We are pointing out to Mr. Cater that under Public Law 89-318, which was enacted on November 2, 1965, the Attorney General was authorized to choose any item of evidence for retention by the Government as it relates to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Can you get Dept to do more than just [illegible] responsibility for all items in full case other than [illegible] would like to have it left as my one [illegible] nothing.

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CB